



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, February 22, 2010

USAO Public Affairs
(202) 514-6933
www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

District Man Pleads Guilty to Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse of His Wife and Two Counts of Obstruction of Justice

WASHINGTON - A 33-year-old District of Columbia man pleaded guilty today to one count of Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse for the rape of his wife, as well as two counts of Obstruction of Justice in connection with threats that he later made against her in an attempt to prevent her from cooperating with authorities, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. The defendant, whose name is being withheld to protect the identity of the victim, will be sentenced before the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz on May 14, 2010. Under the District of Columbia's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant will likely receive a prison sentence of between 10 and 19 years.

According to the government's proffer of evidence at the plea hearing, on June 29, 2009, the defendant got into an argument with his wife. During the argument, the victim went into the bathroom and locked the door. The defendant became angry and used a knife to unlock the door, and then threatened and repeatedly hit the victim and shoved her against a wall, separating her shoulder. The defendant then forced the victim against the bathroom sink and raped her. DNA evidence linked the defendant to the crime. The defendant was arrested and initially charged on June 30, 2009, in connection with the rape. While the case was pending, on August 12, 2009, the defendant contacted the victim by telephone and told her that he would kill her if she testified against him.

In March or April of 2009, the defendant threatened to kill the victim if she testified against him in a separate domestic violence case that was then pending against the defendant in Superior Court. That case involved an allegation that the defendant had assaulted the victim in February of 2009. After threatening the victim if she testified against him, the defendant tore up and threw out the subpoena with which the victim had been served to testify in that case.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of the lead Detective, Yvette Maupin, of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), along with MPD Detectives William Weeks, Wandella Fields and Jose Solloso, Officer Demar Rogers, Evidence Technicians James Holder, James Savage and Thomas Coughlin, and DNA Examiner Jennifer

Zeffer and Forensic Biologist Krystyna Hopkinson of the MPD Crime Lab. U.S. Attorney Machen also acknowledged the support of various staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, especially the outstanding work of Victim Advocate Meshall Thomas and the support of Paralegal Specialists Cynthia Muhammad, Joyce Arthur and Jason Manuel, Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, and Litigation Technology Specialists Leif Hickling and Joshua Ellen. Finally, the U.S. Attorney commended the hard work and dedication of Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Rubenstein, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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